

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER

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CANNERS APPEAR BEFORE HOUSE LABOR COMMITTEE

Hearings before the House Labor Committee on the 30-hour week bill were begun on Tuesday, April 25th. The Committee has before it for consideration the Black bill as passed by the Senate, which contains an exemption for canners of perishable products such as milk, sea foods, fish, fruits, and vegetables; the Connery bill as favorably reported by the Labor Committee, which has a limited exemption through a system of permits to be obtained from the Secretary of Labor; and the Perkins substitute bill, which provides for exemptions allowing a maximum 40-hour week of five eight-hour days for a period of 10 weeks to industries proving the necessity of such extension of hours.

Representatives of the canning industry were heard on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Elmer E. Chase of San Jose, California, appeared for canners of fruits and vegetables, and Mr. William Timson for the fish canning industry. It is hoped that a third representative of the industry will be permitted to appear before the Committee before the hearings close. It is expected that the hearings will be extended for at least another week.

CONFERENCES ON FOOD AND DRUG LAW REVISION

Representatives of the food and drug trade, as well as officers of various associations of publishers, broadcasters, and advertisers, were in conference with the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, R. G. Tugwell, during the past week to discuss the proposed revision of the Food and Drugs Act.

As announced in the last issue of the Information Letter, the revision of the food and drug laws has been under consideration for some time in the Department, and the purpose of the conferences this week was to obtain the views of the food and drug interests as to the character and scope of the contemplated revisions.

HEARINGS ON FREIGHT RATES BEGUN

Hearings in the general investigation of freight rates were started before the Interstate Commerce Commission on Monday, April 24. This investigation was ordered by the Commission

following petitions filed with the Commission in March by shippers of basic commodities who sought reduction in rates on these commodities. The present investigation will cover the question of a general reduction in rates on all kinds of commodities.

Representatives of the canning industry were to be heard on April 29. Mr. H. A. Laing will appear as witness for the National Canners Association, and Mr. Irving Lyons for the Canners League of California and other western shippers.

NEW BULLETINS ON PEAS ISSUED

Two new publications on peas were issued in March by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. One (Bulletin No. 621) is a study of the abnormal enlargement of peas from plants affected with root rot. The other (Bulletin No. 622) presents experimental evidence to prove the incorrectness of the long-standing assumption that sugars change to starch when shelled green peas are held before canning.

CANNED FOOD STOCK SURVEY

The following figures collected at the request of the industry and trade by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce compare stocks of seven principal canned foods in the hands of canners and distributors on April 1, 1933, with those held by the same firms on January 1, 1933, and on April 1, 1932.

The figures are *not* total stocks for *any* item, but represent the change in holdings based upon a cross section of the canners and of the distributors and are therefore representative of conditions in the industry and trade.

Canners' stocks on April 1 of each of the seven items covered by this survey were substantially under those of a year ago. The percentages of the January 1, 1933, holdings moved during the first quarter were large for all products. In general, the movement from January 1, 1933, to April 1, 1933, compares favorably with that for the first quarter of 1932. Corn, tomatoes, and pears made the best showing, each of these having moved out of canners' hands in greater volume during the first quarter of 1933 than during the similar period of 1932.

Distributors' stocks of the seven items combined decreased 15 per cent from January 1, 1933, to April 1, 1933, as compared with a decrease during the similar period of 1932 of 8 per cent. However, January 1, 1933, stocks were 4.5 per cent larger than those on January 1, 1932. As compared with a year ago, distributors' stocks were down 5.2 per cent on April 1, 1933.

STOCKS OF SEVEN CANNED FOODS IN CANNERS' HANDS
(Based on reports from the same firms for each date)

Commodity	No. of firms reporting	Representative stocks sold and unsold		Decrease, April 1, 1933, compared with April 1, 1932		
		April 1, 1933	Cases	April 1, 1932	Cases	Per Cent
Peas	124	2,084,921		3,392,490	1,307,578	39
Corn	142	4,345,094		6,484,088	2,138,994	33
Tomatoes	248	2,700,876		2,926,758	225,882	8
Green and wax beans	169	1,450,292		2,063,033	602,741	29
Peaches	51	2,368,874		4,517,554	2,148,680	48
Pears	52	939,880		1,194,028	254,148	21
Pineapple	7	2,731,882		3,521,611	789,729	22

Commodity	No. of firms reporting	Representative stocks sold and unsold		Decrease, January 1, 1933, to April 1, 1933		
		April 1, 1933	Cases	January 1, 1933	Cases	Per Cent
Peas	124	2,084,921		4,412,600	2,327,688	53
Corn	142	4,345,094		7,068,725	2,748,631	39
Tomatoes	248	2,700,876		4,799,501	2,098,625	44
Green and wax beans	169	1,450,292		2,342,565	892,273	38
Peaches	51	2,368,874		3,500,486	1,131,612	32
Pears	52	939,880		1,615,707	675,827	42
Pineapple	7	2,731,882		3,945,326	1,213,444	31

STOCKS OF SEVEN CANNED FOODS IN HANDS OF 442 DISTRIBUTORS
(Based on reports from the same firms for each date)

Commodity	Representative stocks		Per cent decrease, April 1, 1933, compared with April 1, 1932		Per cent
	April 1, 1933	Cases	April 1, 1932	Cases	
Peas	1,027,827		997,638	29,680*	3.0*
Corn	1,161,635		1,217,694	50,059	4.6
Tomatoes	1,103,063		1,232,636	129,573	10.5
Green and wax beans	499,154		542,049	42,895	7.9
Peaches	643,052		559,076	83,976*	15.0*
Pears	173,402		179,080	5,678	3.2
Pineapple	412,591		567,992	155,401	27.4
Total of seven items	5,020,224		5,296,165	275,941	5.2

Commodity	Representative stocks		Per cent decrease, April 1, 1933, compared with January 1, 1933		Per cent
	April 1, 1933	Cases	January 1, 1933	Cases	
Peas	1,027,827		1,154,448	127,121	11.0
Corn	1,161,635		1,189,364	27,729	2.3
Tomatoes	1,103,063		1,435,900	332,927	23.2
Green and wax beans	499,154		538,599	39,445	7.3
Peaches	643,052		808,128	165,076	20.4
Pears	173,402		202,730	29,328	14.5
Pineapple	412,591		573,883	161,292	28.1
Total of seven items	5,020,224		5,903,142	882,918	15.0

* Increase.

HEARING ON STANDARD FOR CANNED PEAS

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration on April 21 issued notice of a hearing on clarification of the standard for canned peas under the McNary-Mapes Amendment. The announcement stated:

The McNary-Mapes quality standard for canned peas specifies *both tenderness and immaturity* in the raw material. There seems to have been an increasing tendency for some canners to give mature peas an unusually long process, with the result that the finished product meets the tenderness requirement. Canners are warned that such a practice does not exempt canned mature peas from the conventional substandard quality legend.

In order to clarify the standard and to give canners some definite point of reference, it is proposed to add a new paragraph under the caption "Meaning of Terms," reading as follows:

"The peas shall not be considered immature if 10 per cent or more by count are swollen to such an extent as to rupture the skin sufficiently to separate its broken edges one-sixteenth inch."

This announcement does not change paragraph 38(b), which requires both the substandard quality legend and the special statement "soaked dry peas."

The Food and Drug Administration invites comment on the proposed change. This comment should be received not later than May 5, 1933. It is requested that in case oral discussion is desired appointment be made with the Food and Drug Administration before appearance.

TOMATO PRODUCTS IMPORTS

Imports of canned tomatoes in March were more than 3,000,000 pounds below those of March last year. Imports of tomato paste increased slightly. Receipts of canned tomatoes from Italy fell off 1,602,844 pounds when compared with March, 1932, and there were no imports from Canada, as against 1,950,300 pounds imported from Canada in March, 1932. The total imports in March were as follows:

1932	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
January	10,461,256	\$307,270	977,691	\$60,177
February	11,743,475	341,551	652,718	41,161
March	10,992,412	329,724	716,882	44,600
Total	33,197,143	978,545	2,347,291	145,938
1933				
January	5,418,548	182,127	1,000,923	69,190
February	4,508,534	157,558	506,878	30,913
March	7,429,868	247,863	731,449	54,621
Total	17,356,950	587,548	2,305,250	154,733

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN MARCH

Exports of canned foods in March showed some increase over the corresponding month last year. Increases were reported in canned beef, pork, pork and beans, baked beans, tomatoes, loganberries, pineapple, and prunes. Several commodities showed an increase in quantity exported, but a decrease in value. The monthly statistics as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	March, 1932		March, 1933	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	960,781	\$204,934	1,293,319	\$226,956
Beef	44,512	9,183	107,734	26,092
Pork	734,170	162,458	1,030,533	174,730
Sausage	124,764	23,325	60,145	10,862
Other	57,335	9,968	94,907	15,272
Canned vegetables, total	1,842,591	176,690	2,196,516	153,312
Asparagus	545,710	50,417	570,060	65,459
Baked beans, and pork and beans	190,068	11,474	478,501	17,210
Corn	116,050	9,007	95,724	6,289
Peas	226,742	16,191	168,903	12,620
Soups	192,134	23,063	106,635	9,918
Tomatoes	337,067	19,759	590,379	27,066
Other	225,520	16,839	187,265	14,761
Condensed milk	921,910	150,754	475,274	58,811
Evaporated milk	4,226,675	293,008	2,803,485	154,856
Canned fruits, total	19,906,357	1,389,474	12,534,514	791,333
Apples and applesauce	2,171,065	88,470	1,365,395	58,014
Apricots	1,404,815	96,783	528,244	32,380
Loganberries	29,502	3,207	153,975	9,170
Other berries	470,513	27,612	80,721	2,714
Cherries	50,329	7,592	33,188	3,168
Fruits for salad	2,563,863	277,461	1,188,363	119,523
Grapefruit	689,381	38,603	714,910	50,116
Peaches	4,925,345	320,625	2,903,836	152,465
Pears	6,244,951	419,379	3,758,574	231,347
Pineapple	1,200,453	91,021	1,643,597	114,880
Prunes	54,245	4,618	146,250	11,202
Other	92,305	8,103	87,452	6,345
Salmon	1,812,126	200,717	627,919	53,515
Sardines	2,850,529	170,561	1,651,361	81,407

FACTORS INVOLVED IN SUCCESSFUL CANNING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

To meet many inquiries as to the advisability of establishing canneries in South Carolina, Clemson Agricultural College in that state has issued a bulletin on the factors involved in successful canning in South Carolina. The publication is issued as a statement of fact for the guidance of those who may be considering the promotion of canneries, and emphasizes that they should give careful consideration to the following factors: (1) The adaptability of the area to the production of vegetables of a quality and yield that would enable the area to compete with other commercial canning sections; (2) the possible effect upon the canning industry in future years if general consumption of fresh vegetables increases; (3) the likelihood of vegetable production to compete successfully with other agricultural enterprises of the area; and (4) the possibilities of the area competing in the canning industry with existing canning sections.

The bulletin does not deal with the other factors involved, such as efficient management and necessary capital, which it says are questions to be determined by those interested in the canning projects.

CANNED FISHERY PRODUCTS IN 1932

The U. S. Bureau of Fisheries has issued statistics on the output of canned fishery products in 1932. In the following table are shown the quantity and value of the different products in 1932 as compared with 1931:

Product	1931		1932	
	Cases	Value	Cases	Value
Salmon :				
United States.....	1,336,284	\$8,086,308	654,460	\$4,744,162
Alaska	5,403,811	20,006,868	5,254,509	21,715,918
Sardines :				
Maine	885,408	2,647,187	545,697	1,370,050
California	1,713,407	4,715,089	953,981	2,358,390
Tuna and tunalike fishes.....	1,216,976	7,279,392	1,206,177	6,183,019
Alewives	34,620	78,973	11,820	24,950
Alewife roe	32,740	132,078	21,592	77,716
Shad	747	2,091	—	—
Shad roe	2,100	63,000	1,945	51,915
Mackerel	102,392	246,848	94,723	253,572
Fish flakes	28,486	514,553	12,552	104,575
Fish cakes, balls, etc.....	103,704	779,411	64,556	463,107
Cat and dog food.....	62,500	143,345	117,255	286,455
Salmon roe and caviar.....	3,360	30,486	4,288	28,166
Sturgeon caviar	4,630	609,502	2,541	330,140
Whitefish roe and caviar.....	829	23,498	896	34,047
Salmon eggs (for bait).....	5,246	149,186	4,204	95,415
Miscellaneous fish, roe and caviar	9,391	77,870	10,105	60,054
Oysters	306,278	963,525	392,664	1,007,624
Shrimp	821,375	3,982,247	758,106	2,594,980
Clam products	500,040	2,256,900	371,288	1,797,002
Crabs	646	12,817	5,039	80,581
Turtle products	4,058	74,945	3,663	62,879
Miscellaneous shellfish	11,839	82,608	2,545	24,447
Total	12,580,826	\$62,948,791	10,404,606	\$43,749,182

— Not separately stated.

The value of the output, by states, in 1932 as compared with 1931 is shown in the following table:

State	1931		1932	
	Value	Value	Value	Value
Maine	\$3,580,321		\$1,825,323	
Massachusetts and Rhode Island	1,134,691		868,817	
New York and New Jersey	1,345,155		686,026	
Maryland	77,831		51,828	
Virginia	129,551		52,015	
North Carolina	22,439		—	
South Carolina	203,688		265,651	
Georgia		937,312		311,234
Florida			193,135	
Alabama	270,886		240,316	
Mississippi	1,283,437		1,121,982	
Louisiana	1,863,897		1,316,227	
Texas, Utah and Wisconsin	458,756		264,748	
Washington	6,752,088		3,109,835	
Oregon	2,858,046		2,151,500	
California	12,529,384		9,052,330	
Alaska	29,411,300		22,237,706	
Total	\$62,948,791		\$43,749,182	

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF CANNED MILK

	1933 Pounds	1932 Pounds	Change Per cent
Manufacturers' stocks (case goods) April 1:			
Evaporated (34 firms).....	50,571,156	101,387,812	-50.13
Condensed (8 firms).....	5,934,927	7,573,461	-21.64
Total production, March:			
Evaporated (34 firms).....	140,453,237	119,094,787	+17.93
Condensed (7 firms).....	4,156,237	7,012,277	-40.73

STIPULATION ENTERED ON TOMATO PASTE LABELS

According to a recent statement with reference to stipulations resulting from complaints made to the Federal Trade Commission, a firm of copartners, engaged in the sale and distribution of canned tomato paste, have agreed to cease from the use on their brands and labels of pictorial representations of Italian plum-shaped tomatoes, either independently or in connection or conjunction with any word or words in the Italian language so as to deceive purchasers into the erroneous belief that the products are made of Italian plum-shaped tomatoes, or packed in Italy.

ITALIAN CHERRY SHIPMENTS TO UNITED STATES DECLINE

Italian statistics on exports of cherries in brine received by the Department of Commerce from the American consul at Naples show that the United States is a declining market for these cherries. In 1929 the United States took about 90 per cent of the total exports from Italy, but the increase in the American duty in the 1930 tariff law forced Italian exporters to find other outlets, and in 1932 the United States received only a little more than 30 per cent of the Italian exports shipments. The 1932 Italian production of cherries in brine was about 30 per cent less than in 1931.

COMMISSION REPORTS ON RETAIL CHAINS' SALES, COSTS, AND PROFITS

The Federal Trade Commission has sent to the Senate its fourteenth serial report on its investigation of chain stores, entitled "Sales, Costs, and Profits of Retail Chains."

In this report the sales, costs, profits, and other related factors are presented for 1,387 chain store companies having more than 62,000 stores in the year 1930. The eight years covered by this study are 1913, 1919, 1922, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1930.

Aggregate results of operations over this period of years involve net sales of more than \$25,490,000,000 distributed among

twenty-six different kinds of chains. The aggregate cost of merchandise sold was more than \$18,503,000,000; the resulting gross profit, amounting to more than \$6,987,000,000, was divided between operating expenses of a little less than \$5,584,000,000 and a net operating profit of approximately \$1,133,000,000.

Expressed in terms of percentages of sales, these results show cost of merchandise sold, 72.59 per cent; gross profit, 27.41 per cent; operating expenses, 22.96 per cent; and net operating profit, 4.45 per cent.

Five kinds of chains show aggregate sales of more than a billion dollars each, which are, namely: Grocery and meat, \$8,799,000,000; department store, \$4,400,000,000; dollar limit variety, \$4,000,000,000; grocery, \$2,000,000,000, and dry goods and apparel, \$1,000,000,000. These five commodity types, with aggregate sales of \$20,599,519,801, account for about 81 per cent of the total sales of the twenty-six kinds of chains which were considered.

CIRCULAR ISSUED ON FOREIGN DRIED FRUIT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce in cooperation with the Foreign Tariff Division of that Bureau has issued as Special Circular No. 348 a compilation of foreign food laws and import regulations and tariffs applying to dried fruits. This circular was prepared as the result of requests from the dried fruit trade, and contains much statistical material and other information not available elsewhere in the same form. Copies of the circular may be obtained from the Bureau at 25 cents each.

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